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DE RUEHLM #1811 3051153
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4594
INFO RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 9534
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 6447
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 4499
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3278
RUEHMK/AMEMBASSY MANAMA 0249
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0122
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 3367
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0786
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 5651
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 0419
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2448
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 7001
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 4833
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 0006
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0471
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1453

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DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/INS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/01/2016

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SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: SRI LANKA WILL "GENTLY PUSH"
IRAN TO STEP DOWN FROM UNDC VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP CANDIDACY BUT
WILL NOT NOMINATE SELF

REF: STATE 181093

Classified By: DCM James R. Moore for reasons 1.4(b,d).

On November 1 acting political chief delivered demarche on Iran's candidacy for the UN Disarmament Commission vice-chairmanship to Ministry of Foreign Affairs United Nations and Multilateral Affairs Deputy Director Sumedha Ekenayake. Ekenayake said the MFA had been unaware of Iran's intention to fill the Asia Group's UNDC slot. He agreed to fax our talking points to the Sri Lanka delegation to the UN in New York immediately, and said that the Government of Sri Lanka would "gently push" Iran to step down. However, Ekenayake noted that while the Government of Sri Lanka (GSL) is concerned about nuclear proliferation and voted with the U.S. against Iran on the IAEA, the GSL attaches importance to its bilateral ties with Iran. Ekenayake said Sri Lanka would not step forward to nominate itself out of consideration for the bilateral relationship.

BLAKE